

WI-361
Charles Bethke House
Salisbury
Private

1903

Marking the northeast corner of North Division and Elizabeth streets is the Charles Bethke house, a two-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame dwelling erected in 1903 by builder W. J. Ennis, who penciled his name, date, and the fact that is built this house. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the asymmetrically planned residence features a two-story octagonal on its Elizabeth street side. Other architectural elements common to the period include the Tuscan columned wrap-around porch and the fishscale shingles which cover the gable end of the two-and-a-half story pavilions that mark the north and west sides.

Clothing retailer Charles Bethke financed construction of this house in the year he purchased this corner lot from Southey King White for \$1,200. According to local tradition, Charles Bethke, of German descent, owned and operated a men's clothing store in downtown Salisbury during the first decades of the twentieth century. He and his wife Augusta continued to live and work in Salisbury until the outbreak of World War I, when anti-German sentiments were elevated to the point when the Bethkes decided to relocate to Baltimore. Charles Bethke and his wife sold the house and lot in 1922.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Charles Bethke House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-361

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-361

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Charles Bethke House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 601 North Division Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Matthew and Bonnie Creamer

street & number 601 North Division Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 104, P. 608
liber 908

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 634

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-361

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Charles Bethke house is located at 601 North Division Street in the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story asymmetrical planned Queen Anne dwelling faces west and the steeply pitched hip roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Documented to date to 1903 and erected by house builder W. J. Ennis, the two-and-a-half story hip roofed Queen Anne dwelling is supported on a raised common bond brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched hip roof is extended by gable roofed pavilions on the north and west sides as well as a two-story octagonal tower on the south side. Stretching to the rear is a two-story kitchen wing.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical front with a side double door entrance sheltered by a Tuscan columned porch that wraps around the north, west and south sides. A small gable-front roof marks the entrance bay and the gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles. Stretching between the Tuscan columns is a turned baluster handrail. The uneven wall surface is dominated by a three-sided two-and-a-half story pavilion pierced by single-pane sash windows. The gable front of the pavilion is pierced by a two-over-two sash window in the center of a field of fishscale shingles. Rising through the center of the main block is an internal brick stove chimney topped by a corbeled cap.

The north elevation features a two-and-a-half story single-bay pavilion on the north side lighted by single pane sash windows on the first and second floors. Fishscale shingle cover the gable end around the attic window.

Attached to the south side is a two-story semi-octagonal tower topped by a octagonal spire. Narrow single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing extended further east with a single-story section. A Tuscan columned side porch shelters a side entrance.

Although the interior was not seen, the owner produced a piece of door molding inscribed in pencil on its reverse side, "W. J. Ennis, 1903, Builder of this house, Salisbury, Maryland."

8. Significance

Survey No. *W1-361*

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Clothing retailer Charles Bethke financed construction of this house in the year he purchased this corner lot from Southey King White for \$1,200.¹ According to local tradition, Charles Bethke, of German descent, owned and operated a men's clothing store in downtown Salisbury during the first decades of the twentieth century.² He and his wife Augusta continued to live and work in Salisbury until the outbreak of World War I, when anti-German sentiments were elevated to the point when the Bethkes decided to relocate to Baltimore. Charles Bethke and his wife sold the house and lot in 1922.³

The relatively intact exterior detail of this house qualify it for listing in Category B, which identifies buildings that should be preserved since they represent a period of architectural style and contribute to the overall historic nature of the Newtown district.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 37/289, 8 April 1903.

² Personal interview with Matthew Creamer, February 24, 1998.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 126/69, 22 April 1922.

Survey No. *W1-361*

PS-2746

WI-361
Charles Bethke House
601 North Division Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 104, Parcel 608

908/634 Matthew E. Creamer
 Mary Kay Creamer

to

10/19/1978 Matthew E. Creamer

JWTS 739/499 Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Co.
 Personal Rep. of the estate of Richard Herman Hodgson

to

7/29/1971 Matthew E. Creamer
 Mary Kay Creamer

JWTS 265/436 Beulah E. Livingston

to

1/12/1942 Richard H. Hodgson

IDT 191/473 Richard H. Hodgson

to

5/29/1935 Beulah E. Livingston

WI-361
Charles Bethke House
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 157/145 L. Paul Taylor, trustee
for public sale, 7/28/1928

to

9/13/1928 Richard H. Hodgson

JCK 126/69 Charles Bethke and wife Augusta

to

4/22/1922 J. Clayton Kelly
Susanna W. Kelly

JTT 37/289 Southey King White

to

4/8/1903 Charles Bethke
\$1,200

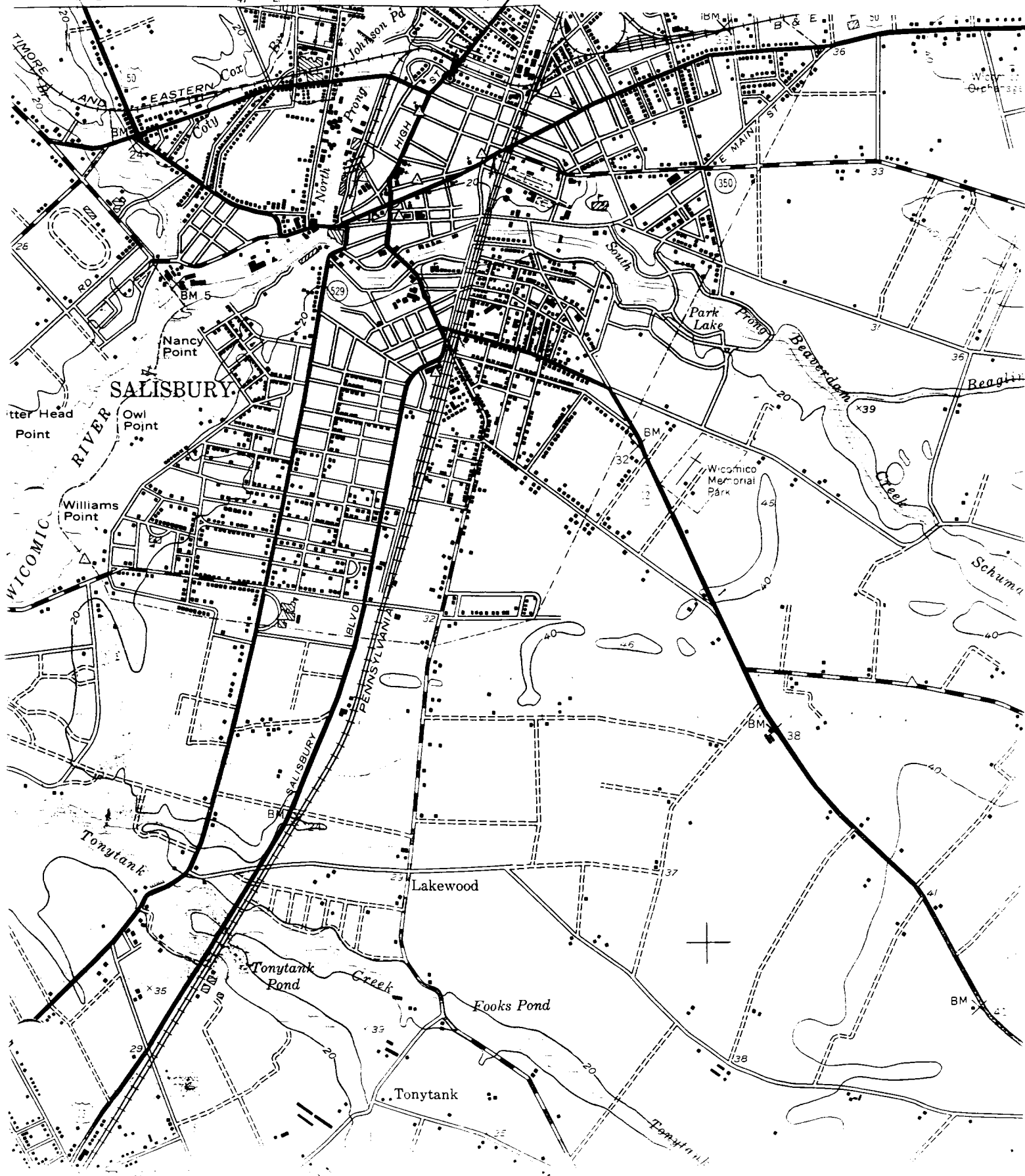
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E

WI-361
Charles Bethke House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





W1-361

Concord, B. 1000 ft. 10/38

Subsiding North & South 200 ft.

West 1000 ft.

7/99, Pave Toward, 1000 ft. 10/38

1000 ft. 1000 ft. 1000 ft.

1 or 2



N1-361

Crossed by road - 1956

East road, N. 1/4 Sec. 12, T. 142

SW 1/4 Sec. 12, T. 142

498, Park Township, Pennsylvania

NE 1/4 Sec. 12, T. 142

2 1/2 2